

pension in friendship with Mr and Mrs
 Graham Wallas
 They forgave Lord Rosebery his educational
 back-shdmg
 The more bitter alienations of the South
 African War did
 not last 1901 did produce alienation but
 left no lasting
 breach So far as MacDonald was concerned,
 the severance
 of frequent association continued for some
 time, as a
 member of the School Board, he attacked
 Webb, bitterly,
 but Webb did not retort in kind, and befoie
 very many
 }ears had passed they were working together,
 in a manner
 that does honour to both Friendship was,
 here, never in
 question, that, between minds and tempers
 fundamentally
 antithetical, could not have existed, in any
 circumstances
 To what she has called MacDonald's
 "artistic quality/"
 to his personal magnetism and sheer mental
 power, Mrs
 Webb has paid specific tribute, but neither
 of them ever
 liked him, nor he them

The early -years of the new century found
 them mainly
 out of politics He was of course mveterately
 busy on the
 London County Council the opposition, theie,
 to the new
 Education Acts was protracted and ingenious,
 to overcome
 it, make the Acts \\ork, called for all his skill
 and tact and
 all his sheer obliviousness to merely emotional
 motives
 They were busy on their new book they were
 busy on
 countless committees they were busy moulding
 and direct-
 ing opinion In 1903 they dropped out an
 admirable little
 work on *The History of Liquor Licensing*—a sort of
 side-line
 in their vast Local Government enquiry in that
 same year,
 he was made a member of the Committee on

Trade Union
Law which the Balfour Government set up,
just before it
fell By then, even the Tones had begun to
realise that
something absolutely must be done about the
Taff Vale
Decision of 1901 This decision, in fact, was to
be a major
element in the immense swing of opinion
against the Balfour
Government when the election came But
there is no
indication that the Webbs, on this or any other
line, foresaw